CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1582
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LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BULGARIA AND TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY ON THE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN SOFIA ON 22 MARCH 1999 ON NON-USE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES AND THEIR REMOVAL FROM OR DESTRUCTION IN THE AREAS OF THEIR COMMON BORDER

We have the nonour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Ms. Nadezhda Mihailova and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Ismail Cem on the agreement signed in Sofia on 22 March 1999, on non-use of anti-personnel landmines and their removal from or destruction in the areas adjacent to our common border.

We would be grateful if you would issue this text as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participants in the work of the CD.

(Signed) Petko Draganov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

(Signed) Murat Sungar
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Sofia, 22 March 1999

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY H.E. MR. ISMAIL CEM AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA H.E. MS. NADEZHDA MIHAILOVA

On the occasion of the visit of H.E. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey to Bulgaria, at the invitation of H.E. Petar Stoyanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, an agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Bulgaria on non-use of anti-personnel mines and their removal from or destruction in the areas adjacent to their common border is signed in Sofia, on 22 March 1999, by H.E. Ismail Cem, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Nadezhda Mihailova, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria.

According to the Agreement, the two countries undertake not to use under any circumstances anti-personnel mines and to destroy or remove all stocked or emplaced anti-personnel mines from the area of application as defined in the Aggrement. The Agreement also envisages a verification regime.

Aware of the human sufferings and casualties caused by the irresponsible and indiscriminate use of the anti-personnel mines, by signing this Agreement the two countries have proved their determination to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the international community aimed at the total elimination of this inhuman weapon.

This Agreement is an expression of the achieved quality of the relations between the two countries and underline the common will to further strengthen the existing friendly relations between them and contribute to stability, security and transparency in the region.